MacIver, Robert Morrison

July 1915, Mar. 1916
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39

Testimonials received June 1915 in view of
Cardiff candidature. — R. M. Maclver.

113 Hamilton Place
Aberdeen

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TELEPHONE
170 MUSEUM.

HOTEL ST. KILDA,
17, TORRINGTON SQUARE,
W.C.

20th July 1915

Dear Mr President.

I am greatly obliged for your letter which has just reached me here. I have duly noted the terms of appointment in respect of the possible withdrawal of the University to make the statutory increase under war conditions.

I hope to sail from Liverpool on August 28th, so that I shall probably arrive in Toronto about September 6th. I shall travel alone, as my wife will be unable to travel just then. This will mean returning our household in Aberdeen until the spring or early summer of next year, when I look forward to our being reunited on the other side.

I am writing also to Professor Mavor, from whom I have also received a letter.

Mr. Lloyd has told me of the high position which the department of Political Economy (and the whole University) occupies. I shall do what I can to maintain such a standard.

Yours faithfully,

R. M. MacIver

President R. A. Falconer.
The University of Toronto.

From the Rev. Lancelot R. Phelps, M.A., Provost of Oriel College, Oxford.

Oriel, 3 June 1915.

Mr. R. MacIver does not require any commendation to those who know him, but to those who do not I will gladly give the impression he made on me while in residence here.

He came to us from Edinburgh where he had been a member of the University, wholly new to the English type and the ways of Oxford. He very soon established a reputation with his contemporaries, as well as with us dons, of a man,

(1) well above the average in ability, in fact among the first two or three in College at the time. His views were always his own. They were fresh and unconventional, arrived at by reasoning process, and not rigidly final. He took to philosophy and delighted his teachers by the quickness and sureness of his touch - so that he left us with a good record of University honours, having made the very most of his opportunities.

(2) The above is no more than the impression which clever young men make every year, but MacIver did much more. He left behind him a gracious memory - of simplicity, of thoroughness, and loyalty. He made fast friends and he kept them. Not merely was his character in the ordinary meaning of the word excellent, but while he grew mentally and morally in scope and range he never lost the charm he brought from his native Hebrides.

I think that the above, coupled with the fact that he has a good wide knowledge of literature and with the testimonials which he will receive from others give good ground for thinking

i. that he has and will use that intellectual sympathy which

is the expression of a mind which has grown rather than been formed;

2. that he has a thoroughly human element in his moral texture, which will ensure his personal interests in his pupils - and not merely in their ability;

3. that he has in the best meaning of the word a sense of humour, which will command the respect and affection of his pupils.

There are few of my pupils of whom I could say more.

(Signed) LANCELOT R. PHELPS,
Provost.

Kennedy Rev.

From Principal George Adam Smith, DD., LL.D., Litt.D.

The University,

Aberdeen, June 8 1915.

I have much pleasure and confidence in bearing testimony to the great qualifications of Mr.Robert Morrison MacIver, M.A., for the post for which he is now a candidate. Mr. MacIver was appointed to the Philosophical Department of this University on the strength of his distinguished career as a student. He has amply proved the wisdom of his appointment. His work as Assistant to the Professor of Moral Philosophy and as Lecturer in Political Science, and since 1911 in Political Science and Sociology has been performed to the full satisfaction to the authorities of the University. Mr. MacIver has also delivered several lectures in the courses for 1913-14 and 1914-15 to working men and women under the joint auspices of the University and the Workers Educational Association; and has always been ready to take part in the organisation and conduct of schemes of University Extension. Others more able to testify will give their opinion of Mr. MacIver's powers as a student and a teacher of Philosophy. I have read more than one long lecture and article by him, and have found reason to admire the independent thinking that lies behind them, the order and clearness of the argument, the force of the style, and the high ethical tone. Mr. MacIver is certain to be of great moral value to whatever community, academic or civic in which he may be placed - and that by the force both of his mind and his character: not only by his thoroughness and accuracy in thinking out principles, but by his power of illustrating their practical bearing on life.

From his work here and my own intercourse with him I am certain that he will be a loyal and unselfish colleague; able and willing to take a useful part in administration.

(Signed) George Adam Smith,
Vice Chancellor and Principal.

From William L. Davidson, LL.D., Professor of Logic and Metaphysics in the University of Aberdeen.

The University,

Aberdeen, 25th.May, 1915.

Dr. R.M. MacIver has done excellent work in connection with the University since he came to Aberdeen, and I have much pleasure in testifying to the fact. His duties have been twofold - first as Assistant to the Professor of Moral Philosophy, and next as Lecturer on Political Science and Sociology. In both spheres he has worked with marked distinction, and his pupils (as I know from personal contact with them) have been highly appreciative. He is not only replete with knowledge himself, but has the power of imparting it effectively to others, and of arousing enthusiasm. He is a vigorous man, of keen intellect and of wide sympathies, and he has a very attractive disposition. His success as a teacher and a Lecturer in Aberdeen gives every assurance that he would prove a successful Professor in such a Chair as that for which he is now a candidate. And he would be found to be a colleague easy to work along with.

Dr. MacIver's literary output is already large. It consists of weighty contributions to such periodicals as Mind, The Philosophical Review, The International Journal of Ethics, The Sociological Review, and The Political Quarterly; showing everywhere keenness of intellect and exceptional freshness of handling. He has ready a work on "Community: A Sociological Study", which won for him the degree of D.Phil. from Edinburgh University, and which Messrs. Macmillan are to publish probably in Autumn.

(Signed) William L. Davidson, LL.D.

From A. S. Pringle-Pattison, LL.D., Professor of Logic and Metaphysics in the University of Edinburgh.

University of Edinburgh,

June 5th., 1915.

I have pleasure in stating my high opinion of Mr. R. M. MacIver's qualifications for a philosophical Chair. He began his studies in my Ordinary class of Logic and Philosophy in session 1900-1, when he divided the first place with another student. He graduated here with first Class Honours in Classics, and received his further philosophical training at Oxford, where he took a First in Greats.

Mr. MacIver has filled with distinction for some years past the post of Lecturer in Political Philosophy and Sociology in the University of Aberdeen. When I was Gifford Lecturer in that University in 1912 and 1913, I had opportunities of meeting him, and also of hearing of the success of his work. A few months ago, I listened to a very able paper which he read in a club consisting of the teachers of philosophy in the four Scottish universities. I greatly admired his powers of handling ideas and giving them lucid expression. The same qualities are exhibited in the comprehensive treatise on 'Community', which he submitted this year for our Doctorate in Philosophy, and which is already in print and ready for publication.

Owing to the nature of the Lectureship which he holds, as well as to his own natural bent, Mr.MacIver's work of late years has been chiefly on the ethical and social side of philosophy. But his knowledge and interest extend equally to other departments of the subject, and he has acted for the last five years as Examiner in Philosophy in London University. He is in every way fully qualified for a Professorship of Logic and Philosophy which covers the whole field.

A. Seth Pringle-Pattison
Professor of Logic and Metaphysics.

From J. B. Baillie, Esq., D.Phil., Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Aberdeen.

King's College,

Aberdeen.

June 1915.

Dr. R. M. MacIver has been on the teaching staff of Aberdeen University for the last eight years. During the first four years, from October 1907, he acted in the dual capacity of Assistant in Moral Philosophy and Lecturer in Political Science. As Assistant, he gave lectures to the honours and ordinary students in Moral Philosophy, examined essays and papers of students, and conducted tutorial classes. As Lecturer in Political Science he had full charge of a class primarily intended for advanced students and Indian Civil Service candidates. His work throughout was in all respects most successful. His judgment of class exercises was always well-balanced and carefully formed. He showed genuine interest in teaching, and a ready sympathy with the minds of students. And personally I found him a congenial colleague.

On the strength of his work during these four years I felt no hesitation in recommending him for the post he now occupies - the Lectureship in Political Science and Sociology, instituted in this University in 1911. This Lectureship was established mainly for advanced and honours students in Philosophy, Economics, and History. Dr. MacIver's continued success as a teacher, his ability to stimulate his students, and his keen interest in ~~his~~ the subject have amply justified the appointment.

Dr. MacIver has already made useful contributions to magazines and reviews. He writes with great clearness and facility. His articles on Plato in Mind bear witness to his competence as a

student of Greek Philosophy; while his articles on Ethics and Sociology show considerable power of acute criticism and independent reflection. I have not yet seen his forthcoming volume on Sociology; but I learn from those who have examined it as a thesis presented for the Doctorate in Philosophy at Edinburgh University that it is a very good piece of work and will greatly add to his reputation.

I submit that the foregoing is a body of evidence in support of Dr.MacIver's candidaturefor the vacant Chair of Philosophy in Cardiff which deserves the careful consideration of the electors.

(Signed) J. B. Baillie.

From George Unwin, Esq., M.A., Professor of ~~Industrial~~ Economic History in the University of Manchester.

The University,

Manchester, June 4, 1915.

As I understand that Mr. R. M. MacIver of Aberdeen University is a candidate for the Chair of Logic and ~~Metaphysics~~ Philosophy at Cardiff, I should like to support his application very strongly. I have enjoyed the privilege of reading the proofs of Mr. MacIver's unpublished book on "Community", and I regard it as the most solid as well as the most stimulating contribution to Social Science or Social Philosophy which I have read since my undergraduate days. It ought to make an epoch in the study and teaching of the subject.

From personal contact with Mr. MacIver I am convinced that he possesses philosophical gifts of rare originality and power, and I shall rejoice to see him occupying a Chair rendered illustrious by such names as Seth, Sorley, and Mackenzie.

(Signed) George Unwin,

Professor of Economic History in the University of Manchester; formerly Richard Corbett Scholar at Cardiff University College.

From Joseph Solomon, Esq. M.A., Examiner in Philosophy to the Civil Service Commissioners and to the University of London.

June 8th., 1915.

Mr. R. M.MacIver is and has been for some years past my colleague as External Examiner in Philosophy (Ethics, Psychology, Logic, and History of Philosophy) to the University of London. I could not have had a more agreeable or more helpful associate. His wide knowledge, his originality and acuteness have been of the greatest value in setting genuine and serious questions in a pointed and unmistakeable manner and in judging the value of the answers and the real knowledge of the candidates. From my personal acquaintance with him through our common work and through conversation I cannot doubt that he would prove an energetic, stimulating teacher.

(Signed) Joseph Solomon M.A.Balliol
Examiner in Philosophy to the University of London, to the Civil Service Commissioners, etc.

March 27th, 1916

Professor R. M. McIver,

University of Toronto.

Dear Professor McIver:

Many thanks for your note about Mr. Ritchie. I am sorry that there is no chance of his coming to us.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.